

Remarks:

I. Introduction

In the Office Action mailed on June 23, 2010, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6 to 9, 12 to 27, 29 to 47, 51 to 57, and 59 to 65. This amendment cancels no claims, amends claims 1, 52, 55, 55, and 57, and adds no new claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 6 to 9, 12 to 27, 29 to 47, 51 to 57, and 59 to 65 remain pending in this application.

II. Claim objections

The Examiner objected to claims 55 and 56 because of a typographical error. Claims 55 and 56 have been amended to correct the typographical error. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

III. Claim Rejections to 35. U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6 to 9, 12 to 21, 24 to 27, 29, 30, 34 to 45, 47, and 51 to 65 pursuant to 35. U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Thompson (WO 03/053735 A1). Applicant respectfully disagrees for the reasons set out below.

Independent claim 1, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable because they each require “wherein said console comprises a flat top region for a table.” No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as now claimed by independent claim 1. Thompson has tables stowed in arm rests. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent claims 52 and 57, and claims depending therefrom, are each allowable because they each require “a shell shaped to define a respective station for at least one of said seats and to define a respective footwell on at least one side of the respective station, wherein the station for the seat of the first seating position and the station for the seat of the second seating position partially overlap in the transverse direction such that said station for the seat of the second seating position overlaps the respective footwell of said first seating position, wherein the shell includes a respective buttress portion extending between adjacent seats, or adjacent a single seat, the buttress portion being shaped to define a respective footwell.” No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as now claimed by independent claim 1. Thompson has footwells which are defined by other seats. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

IV. Claim Rejections to 35. U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 23 and 46 pursuant to 35. U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Thompson (WO 03/053735 A1) in view of Dryburgh et al. (US 6,059,364). Applicant respectfully disagrees for the reasons set out below.

Claims 23 and 46 are each allowable as depending from allowable independent claim 1 as discussed above and independently allowable for novel and nonobvious matter contained therein. Reconsideration and withdraw of the rejection is requested.

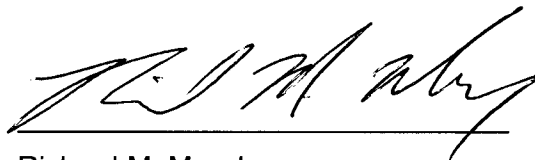
V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner indicated that claims 22 and 31 to 33 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

VI. Conclusion

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested. If it is found that that the present response does not place the application in a condition for allowance, Applicant's undersigned attorney requests that the Examiner initiate a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of the application. If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 50-3915.

Respectfully submitted,



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